

December 15, 2003

**Project 184 Weekly Update**  
**Website: [www.project184.org](http://www.project184.org)**

Summary of Environmental Planning and Compliance Activities  
For Project 184  
*Week Ending December 15, 2003*

**South Fork American River Diversion Dam**

Mead & Hunt was contacted this week regarding its plans to perform the third and final post-construction riverbed survey for assessing sediment transport in the vicinity of the dam in accordance with USFS 4(e) conditions.

EN2 Resources, Inc. assisted District staff with consulting with the California Department of Fish and Game and FERC, and then worked with the District to transmit a letter to the FERC Regional Office in San Francisco, requesting authorization to construct minor modifications to the diversion dam fish ladder. The modifications were developed by Mead & Hunt to make hydraulic flow conditions closer to original design criteria for upstream fish passage. Additional work immediately downstream of the ladder may be required if the currently proposed measures are not sufficiently effective. If necessary, the subsequent fish ladder work would likely be performed in the late summer when the District plans to install a larger trash rack structure surrounding the gates to the intake structure.

**Mill to Bull Tunnel**

The District transmitted a written request to the USFS this week for a one-year extension to the USFS Special Use Permit (SUP) for the Mill to Bull Tunnel and Canal Bench Restoration Project activities. The current SUP expires February 2004 and one additional year is needed for limited work on certain associated facilities (e.g., Bull Portal Spill 20 and Mill Creek diversion bore hole), salvage transport (e.g., wooden flume relocation from USFS staging areas), and re-vegetation (e.g., reforestation of USFS salvage staging areas) tasks that could not be completed during the 2003 construction season.

EN2 Resources consulted with Regional Water Quality Control Board staff (Kyle Ericson, Susan Kelly, and Jacque Kelley) and assisted District staff to clarify the status and payment requirements for open storm water construction and waste discharge requirements permits issued to the District for Mill to Bull Tunnel and other Project 184 related activities.

Carlton Engineering, Inc. and EN2 Resources, Inc. worked with District staff this week to develop letters to the Regional Water Quality Control Board to phase out the Waste Discharge Requirements permit and Monitoring and Reporting Program (5-00-215) for the tunnel construction and associated tunnel spoils management.

### **Canal Bench Restoration Project**

Kristin Schaeffer coordinated with John Abercrombie this week to identify the telemetry system to be installed for monitoring Mill Creek flows in accordance with the Relicensing Settlement Agreement. The telemetry system will be installed as part of the Mill Creek Diversion Modification (Bore Hole) Project to interconnect the District's Mill Creek water rights with the newly constructed Mill to Bull Tunnel.

### **Camp 2 Area Road, Rock Wall, and Deer Fencing Activities**

Dave Buel provided Karen Quidachay a field review of the Camp 2 Shortcut Road restoration, Camp 2 road surface slide, vandalized historic rock wall, and deer fencing maintenance work areas scheduled for summer 2004. Due to the proximity of the shortcut road to recorded historic properties and Plum Creek, because the vandalized rock wall is a National Register-eligible property on USFS lands, and because the replacement deer fencing includes areas where historic rock walls are potentially buried, the District is required to consult with the USFS, State Office of Historic Preservation, and other agencies, and may also need to secure certain permits, prior to implementing the work next summer. EN2 Resources will be providing a proposed scope of work to assist the District with the necessary agency reviews and permits.

### **Powerhouse Water Quality Monitoring**

EN2 Resources conducted water quality monitoring of the South Fork American River on December 2 and 4. For December 4, sampling included monitoring associated with Spill 42 releases to repair flume boards that failed within Spillway #44 during dynamic testing of the canal/flume system on December 3.

### **Echo Conduit System Repairs**

A preliminary schedule was developed this week showing the breakdown of 2004 and 2005 Echo Conduit system activities. The District is proposing to install a telemetry station and automated gate valve at Echo Dam, along with possible temporary tunnel reinforcements, in summer 2004; in 2005, the District proposes to replace the pipeline, complete tunnel repairs, and construct the Pacific Crest Trail Bridge.

SWPPP measures are in place and inspections are being performed as required.

### **Powerhouse Update:**

Both Units #1 & Unit # 2 have been operating 24/7 now since November 12, 2003 generating as much power as possible, while conserving water. Maintenance work is being completed on dayshift doing one unite at a time. EID recently completed the "Buck and Boost" testing that PG&E required to complete the commissioning process.

### **Plum Creek Siphon Inspection**

District staff and EN2 Resources reviewed the possible work scope and agency review process for draining and, if necessary, removing sediment from the Plum Creek Siphon. The District is considering developing a specific Best Management Practice (BMP) for

the removal of sediment from siphons, similar to BMPs that were developed and approved by the RWQCB for El Dorado Canal sediment removal.

### **Canal**

The dynamic flume testing and Power Generation was very successful without any major incidents that would cause problems during the testing. The canal is being patrolled on a daily basis and there have been no major problems found which would prevent the canal to be filled to its capacity. SCADA was tested during the testing to insure the reliable and safe operation of the canal.

The residence houses located on the canal have been filled by Camp #5 Hydro employees which will insure the reliable and safe operation of the canal.

The Bull Portal dewatering pump rewiring is completed and was tested last week and it work as expected.

The drill rig that was flown into the area between Flumes #6 and #7 to install the drains is finish and plans on flying out there equipment this week.

### **Echo Lake**

The flashboards have been removed from the spillway and the facilities have been winterized.

### **Caples Lake**

The flashboards have been removed from the spillway and the facilities have been winterized.

### **Silver Lake**

The radial gates are fully opened, the flashboards removed for winter and the facilities have been winterized.

### **Lake Aloha**

Lake Aloha is shut down for the winter, which is the normal operating pattern.  
A visit was made October 29, 2003 to Lake Aloha.  
Staff 5.64 = 29.5 AF

**Listed below are the Projects readings for December 8, 2003,  
Taken from SCADA:**

	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Ac. Ft.</b>	<b>Draft</b>
Echo Lake	.37	117	0
Echo Conduit	0		0
Echo Creek	1.73		16.4 cfs
Caples Lake	44.08	12,290	29.1 cfs
Silver Lake	4.90	1,339	35.0 cfs
Pyramid Creek	0	0	

There is 43.1 cfs @ A-11 cfs being released into the canal at Intake and 87.6 cfs flowing in the South Fork of the American River at Intake.

A-17 Forebay Storage 3796.3=278 AF

A-18 EID Irrigation Usage is .40=4.67 cfs

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